

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02

NSC-10 PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-10 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3190

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10736

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP, JUNE 13

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG JUNE 13

REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0607

1. SECURITY SITUATION: INCIDENT LEVEL IN MR 2 REMAINS RELATIVELY HIGH WITH TOTAL OF 20 ACTIONS REPORTED IN PAST 24 HOURS: 9 VC/ NVA HARASSMENTS BY FIRE, SIX VC/ NVA MININGS, THREE FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN VC/ NVA AND RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL, AND TWO VC/ NVA GROUND ATTACKS. MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS WERE CONCENTRATED IN PHU YEN AND KONTUM (WITH SIX INCIDENTS EACH) WHILE REMAINDER WERE SCATTERED; FOUR IN BINH DINH, AND ONE EACH IN BINH THUAN, NINH THUAN, QUANG DUC, AND PLEIKU. CASUALTIES: VC/ NVA: 29 WIA, SEVEN CAPTURED; RVNAF; THREE KIA, AND

7 WIA

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2. AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING OCCURRED IN KONTUM. THERE WERE THREE ENEMY-INITIATED ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN VC/ NVA FORCES AND ELEMENTS OF 280 TH AND 253 RD RF BATTALIONS ABOUT EIGHT KM WEST OF KONTUM CITY JUST EAST OF THE AREA RECENTLY OCCUPIED BY COMMUNIST FORCES. ALTHOUGH THESE THREE ACTIONS RESULTED IN 18 VC/ NVA KILLED AND REPORTEDLY ONLY FIVE RF WOUNDED, ONE COMPANY OF 280 TH WAS COMPELLED BY STRONG ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS AND 130 MM SHELLING TO WITHDRAW ONE KM TO WEST. FIGHTING STILL GOING ON BETWEEN TRUNG NGHIA AND KONTUM CITY, AS COMBINED ARVN AND RF FORCES MANEUVER INTO POSITION FOR PUSH TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA. (COMMENT: CURRENT SITUATION THERE IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR: NHA TRANG OPERATION CENTER HAS ANCILLARY POSITION IN MR 2 REPORTING ARRANGEMENT, AND INFORMATION FROM 23 RD DIV STAFF OFFICERS, WHO ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED, MAY BE PIECEMEAL OR INCOMPLETE.)

3. THERE WERE TWO VC MININGS OF RAILROAD THIS PERIOD: ONE CAUSED DERAILMENT OF REPAIR TRAIN IN DONG XUAN DISTRICT, PHU YEN, AND ONE TOTALLY DESTROYED A BRIDGE ON YET UNOPERATIONAL STRETCH IN SOUTHERN NINH THUAN.

4. REFUGEES: ACTION WEST OF PLEIKU IN THE LAST WEEK HAS GENERATED A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN BOTH KONTUM AND PLEIKU. ACCORDING TO US REP, THE APPROXIMATELY 4,000 REFUGEES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (NHA TRANG 0603, PARA 7) TO HAVE ENTERED MARYLOU CAMP IN PLEIKU HAVE COME FROM THE FOLLOWING VILLAGES: POLEI KLONG TRUNG NGHIA, PLEI POO, PLEI KNOC KLONG, PLEI KLENG, AND PLEI SAR. THE REFUGEES SAY THAT THERE ARE WOUNDED, SICK, AND DEAD LEFT BEHIND, AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM LEAVING. PROVINCE SECURITY PERSONNEL ARE ATTEMPTING TO SCREEN REFUGEES TO PREVENT COMMUNIST INFILTRATION.

5. ALSO IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OVER 400 REFUGEES FROM KONTUM HAVE ARRIVED AT PHAM PHU QUOC REFUGEE CENTER AND HAM RONG CAMP IN PLEIKU, BUT THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL REFUGEES FLEEING TO PLEIKU MAY BE CONSIDERABLY LARGER. US REP BELIEVES MANY OTHERS HAVE COME TO PLEIKU BUT ARE STAYING WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES IN OR NEAR PLEIKU CITY. POLOFF PLEIKU ALSO CITES REPORTS OF WEALTHY AND WELL- TO- DO PEOPLE LEAVING KONTUM ITSELF

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(WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ATTACKED NOR IMMINENTLY THREATENED) AND MOVING SOUTH OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, HAULING HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND VALUABLES WITH THEM. (COMMENT: EXODUS OF WEALTHY KONTUM RESIDENTS MAY HAVE ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON REMAINING KONTUM INHABITANTS WHETHER OR NOT HASTY DEPARTURE WAS JUSTIFIED. PLEIKU SEEMS JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED THAT MANY MORE REFUGEES MAY COME POURING IN FROM KONTUM. END COMMENT).

6. US REP QUANG DUC REPORTS THAT NORTHERN KIEN DUC DISTRICT
HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF SPORADIC SKIRMISHES OVER THE PAST
MONTHS, AND CONTACT THIS PERIOD RESULTED IN ONE VC KIA.
NORTHWEST CORNER OF KIEN DUC ALONG THE PHUOC LONG BORDER
REMAINS FIRMLY IN ENEMY HANDS, WITH ELEVEN ENEMY COMPANIES
OPERATING IN THE AREA, GENERALLY MAINTAINING A DEFENSIVE
POSTURE AND SECURING THE ROAD AND TRAIL NETWORK. LOCAL
MONTAGNARDS, WHO P
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